

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The Rev. Dr. Norman Fox's "Sketch of the Life of Thomas Ramnant, D.D." (Fords, Howard & Hulbert), is a kindly and well-deserved tribute to Dr. Ramnant, who was for many years one of the most prominent Baptist clergymen in the country. He was well known in this vicinity, having been pastor of a church in Brooklyn a few years ago, and more recently of a church in New York. He will be remembered as a faithful pastor and a godly man, rather than as a great preacher, though as a preacher he was often powerful, and always effective.

Macmillan & Co. issue a volume of "Village Sermons" preached by the late Dean Church, at Whately. They are characterized by the solid and robust piety, simplicity and directness of Dr. Church, and are eminently readable. Of the thirty-two sermons in the volume there is not one to which any evangelical Christian can take exception; an interesting fact when we remember how strong an Anglican Churchman the Dean was. As models of simple and earnest Gospel preaching, these sermons might well be studied by the younger preachers of this country.

The same publishers have brought out a volume entitled "The Leading Ideas of the Gospels," by William Alexander, Lord Bishop of Derry and Raphoe. Bishop Alexander's approaching visit to this country to deliver a course of lectures in New York will doubtless stimulate the interest of theologians in this work; and it is safe to say that those who may be thus led to read it will not be disappointed.

Taking up the Gospels serially, he sets out to unfold the ideas which they were intended to emphasize, an apparently unnecessary task, but one which is amply justified by the many popular misconceptions of these writings. He lays down the proposition that the Gospels are not regular and complete biographies, or miscellaneous collections of anecdotes, but selections from a vast treasury of recollections, arranged according to a method of their own around certain leading ideas. If this be true it is most essential to a proper understanding of the Gospels to discover what these leading ideas were.

Proceeding from this general statement to particulars, Dr. Alexander finds that there are in the Gospel of Matthew two leading ideas. The first is the desire of the writer to give the discourses of Jesus, and the second is to contrast the true with the false Judaism. The main characteristics of Mark's Gospel are its vividness and the influence of Peter on the author; and its leading ideas are that Jesus is lord of the human race, and that his earthly life was one of alternate rest and toil. In Luke the leading ideas are that Jesus is the Saviour of the world, the importance of grace and forgiveness, and so on. In John the divine glory of Christ, and the relation of character to belief and unbelief, are dwelt on.

We have given only the merest skeleton of Dr. Alexander's argument, but sufficient, perhaps, to indicate its character. It remains only to say that in developing it he brings in bear in a remarkable degree the power of leading and critical insight which he is noted.

At the same time his style is clear, forcible and direct; that the average reader, unfamiliar with speculative theology, will find the volume at once interesting and instructive. It is furnished with a copious index, which makes all its points easily accessible to the student.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

THE SPIRIT OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY. By Josiah Royce. \$10. pp. 519. (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)

LYRICS FROM THE DRAMATISTS OF THE ELIZABETHAN AGE. Edited by A. H. Bullen. 16mo. pp. 301. (Charles Scribner's Sons.)

WAGNER AS I KNEW HIM. By Ferdinand Prager. 12mo. pp. 334. (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)

POEM. By George Thompson. 12mo. pp. 210. (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)

THE BOOKS OF BILBOSSUS. An account rendered by Richard Le Gallienne. 12mo. pp. 112. (Charles Scribner's Sons.)

CRITICAL HISTORY OF GENERAL BOOTH'S SOCIAL SCHEMES. By C. S. Lohr. Behrend Bosseus M. A., and the Rev. Canon Philip Dwyer M. A. 16mo. pp. 100. (Charles Scribner's Sons.)

SOCIALISTS AND ANARCHISTS. By C. E. Whittlesey. 16mo. pp. 181. (George C. Cupples.)

MORAL TEACHINGS OF SCIENCE. By A. E. Buckley. 16mo. pp. 125. (Appleton & Co.)

IT HAPPENED YESTERDAY. By Robert Marshall. 12mo. pp. 12. (Appleton & Co.)

TALES OF SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS. By Amédée Biron. 12mo. pp. 300. (E. L. G. Steele.)

DEAFNESS AND DISCHARGE FROM THE EAR. By Samuel Sexton. M. D. 16mo. pp. 85. (J. H. V. Rourke, N. Y. Manager, Lincolne Clinic.)

SOCIALISTS AND MEN VS. STATE. By Herbert Spencer. 16mo. pp. 420. (D. Appleton & Co.)

THE WELL-SPRING OF IMMORTALITY. By S. S. Weiss. 8vo. pp. 223. (A. D. F. Randolph & Co.)

HENRY PINE DU BOIS'S FOUR PRIVATE LIBRARIES OF NEW-YORK. 8vo. pp. 110. (Doubleday, Page & Co.)

HIS GREAT WORK. By Marion Harland. 12mo. pp. 350. (J. B. Lippincott Company.)

MAN AN OPEN BOOK. By James S. Dooley. 12mo. pp. 150. (P. F. Wagner & Son.)

THE TALES OF THE BOHEMIANS. By Papus. 8vo. pp. 247. (Charles Scribner's Sons.)

ANTINOS. A tragedy by Abbie Carter Goodine. 16mo. pp. 189. (J. B. Lippincott Company.)

EDUCATING UP TO PARADISE. By John B. Verney. 16mo. pp. 125. (Appleton & Co.)

WILLIAM GILMORE SIMMS. By William P. Trent. 12mo. pp. 351. (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)

LESSONS ON DECORATIVE DESIGN. By Frank G. Jackson. 8vo. pp. 120. (Charles Scribner's Sons.)

CIGARETTE STORIES. By Joseph H. Eaton. 12mo. pp. 120. (J. B. Lippincott Company.)

SHERRIFF'S PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE WORLD. By James W. Sherriff and Daniel B. Sherriff. Quarto, oblong. pp. 100. (J. B. Lippincott Company.)

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RECOLLECTIONS AND LETTERS OF ERNEST RENAN. Translated from the French by Isabel F. Hapgood. 12mo. pp. 327. (Cassell Publishing Company.)

THE BOOK OF PITY AND DEATH. A collection of stories by PIERRE LOTI. Translated from the French by T. P. O'Connor. M. P., author of "Pen-and-Paper Stories." etc. etc. 1 vol., 12mo, extra cloth, gilt top. \$1.50.

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New Publications.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE.

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